

# The Lexington Intelligencer.

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## Mr. Wilson's Letter.

EDITOR INTELLIGENCER:

The Washington Post is, all things considered the most creditable paper to America now published on the Eastern coast. But like all the other papers in the East, there is nobody connected with it who knows the science of money. Lately it has had editorials on "our short dollars," meaning the silver dollars. In its issue of August 1, 1904, it published the following from me and answered editorially as follows:

Editor Post: Your editorial references to "short dollars" comes short of completeness; they leave the reader and would-be learner in the dark. They express dissatisfaction with a present condition, but propose no remedy. Will the Post give its readers editorially a statement of what it believes the proper policy as to the silver dollars? Will it also say what it thinks is the proper policy as to the still shorter silver halves, quarters and dimes? Mint Director Roberts recommends that the volume of the latter be decreased by a hundred million dollars, face value. The Hill bill, which has taken the place of the shameful Fowler bill, proposes to turn a hundred millions of your "short dollars" into a somewhat greater volume of shorter halves, quarters and dimes.

It is a republican axiom that there can be no fixed ratio maintained between silver and gold in coinage, but a statute requires congress to maintain the parity of all forms of currency and money in the treasury and country at the ratio of 15 98 to 1. It has fixed another ratio for the Philippine Islands. The Fowler bill, making silver dollars redeemable in gold, was introduced, and Mr. Shaw said he knew no other way of obeying the statute ordering him to maintain the parity of all forms of currency and money. Now, the president in accepting his nomination says every dollar issued or in existence is as good as gold, which includes what you call "short dollars."

Do any of them "know where they are at?" Is there an editor, a statesman, or any federal official who knows the principles of the money science? These principles are as necessary in the settlement of the questions as the multiplication table in the solution of any mathematical problem.

GEORGE WILSON

## THE POST'S ANSWER.

"Is a newspaper bound to propose a remedy for every evil of which it makes complaint? Must a newspaper, in order to be reasonably consistent, point out the details of every reform which it advocates? Must it tell experts employed at public cost to accomplish this, that, or the other object, and who fail to meet just expectations, precisely where they have erred and what they ought to do in the premises? This would call for the most exhaustive knowledge on the part of a newspaper touching all sciences and arts. If, for example, it complains of a very high death rate, due to the spread of contagious diseases, would it be required to instruct the medical officials in their field of scientific labor? Or if it noted with regret a decrease of interest in religion and the growing prevalence of vice, ought it to lecture the clergy on what and when and where to preach?"

"A correspondent of the Post whose letter was printed on the last instant notes that this journal has attacked our short dollars and other features of our hodgepodge of currency laws, and has not told the lawmakers what to do in order to set things right. Our correspondent, therefore, requests the Post to suggest a comprehensive plan of reform. That invitation is respectfully but positively declined. We have many experts in finance in congress and in the treasury department, not a few of whom are men of great experience in their specialty. It is their duty—not the Post's—to remedy the great, glaring, confessed, and dangerous defects in our currency laws. The Post will continue to complain so long as the gold standard is endangered by more than \$350,000,000 of fiat, and so long as any one official is clothed with so much discretionary power as is now in the hands of the secretary of the treasury.

And until the republican party makes good the false claim and vain boast of the gold standard that it put into its platform four years ago, The Post will cry aloud and spare not. And we are under no more obligation to formulate a currency reform bill than we should be to write prescriptions for the medical officials of the district if they should let a contagious disease get the better of them for lack of nerve enough to adopt heroic remedies.

"It will always be a humiliation to the Post to see that inscription 'In God We Trust' on an alleged dollar that contains only fifty cents worth of metal."

The power that solely by legislating against silver in order to make room for bank notes has reduced the value of silver bullion, is estopped from pleading its own wrong for its own advantage, as the editor of the Post does in this last paragraph. The late Edward Abendoth acknowledged that my showing that if silver is not money its use for subsidiary coins is an expensive absurdity is a point that the bank paper party can not answer. We cannot continue to write promissory notes for fractions of a dollar, aggregating one or two hundred million dollars, on a material costing half that much. It must be displaced by the old paper "fractional currency" issued by banks instead of by the government, and redeemable in gold when presented in sums of \$20. Their proposed system is gold and bank notes. This will be what they have always denied that they aimed at: the destruction of half the money. It will make the price of farm products to the producer of them half what it would be under constitutional coinage. Substituting bank notes for the destroyed money not only will not raise those prices as money would, but it will lower them still more, for out of farm products must come the interest on half a billion bonds that will be issued as basis for the bank notes. And as an excuse for such issue we are to have a war, if the fierce war-lord of the white house be elected. [By the way, there is a well-based report here that he is under treatment for St. Vitus' dance.]

In his "Frenzied Finance" in the August number of Everybody's Magazine, Thomas Lawson the Boston multi-millionaire says the great amalgamated copper robbery by Standard Oil men that he exposes was only possible through the National City Bank. In 1833 Gouge foretold that just such things would be done by the issue banks as the reason of their existence. I wrote for fifteen years in an agricultural paper that the issue banks are the cause of what is most complained of in our affairs. Mr. Lawson has found it out. It is a great misfortune that honest and patriotic as Bryan is and having the attention of the people as he had it he did not know the money science and so ran into a pocket instead of going through the channel. Now he is going to do a similar act in the matter of railroads, as you indicate in your last number. GEORGE WILSON.

## Going to South Africa.

R. N. B. Farrell, a former lieutenant in the British army, was here Wednesday on his way to New Orleans, via Indian Territory. Mr. Farrell, who is a Canadian by birth, and a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, enlisted in the Canadian contingent and served through the Boer war. At the close of the war he returned home, but recently decided to make a trip through the United States on horseback. He rode from Manitoba to St. Louis, where he was employed in the attraction "The Boer War." From St. Louis he rode to this point, coming from Carrollton Wednesday. His intention is to return to South Africa, where he has land, and he is on his way to New Orleans, from which place he will take ship for Cape Town.

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Stark and three children left for St. Louis Thursday morning, where they will make their home in the future. Professor Stark was for twelve years a teacher in Wentworth Academy and was held in very high regard both personally and in music circles.

## Death of a Great Missourian

Ex-Senator Vest Passed Away at His Summer Home in Sweet Springs, Missouri

Died, after a lingering illness, at his summer home in Sweet Springs, Mo., Tuesday morning, August 9th, George Graham Vest, aged nearly seventy-four years.

The following sketch and critical appreciation of this great Missourian, written by Judge John F. Phillips, long his law partner and friend, is so complete and just that it is copied entire:

George Graham Vest was born in Frankfort, Ky., in December, 1830. I have known him, personally, for fifty years. We had the same Alma Mater, Center College, Kentucky. Our wives, born and reared in the college town, are cousins. I was present at his marriage in 1854. He located just prior to that, in Georgetown, Pettis county, Missouri, where he began his remarkable career as a lawyer. In 1855-6 he moved to Booneville, Cooper county, and formed a partnership with Colonel Jo Stephens. There I met him in October, 1856, when, with license in my pocket, I started out in quest of a location to practice law. It was through his persuasion that I hung my shingle out at Georgetown. In 1860 he was presidential elector on the Douglass ticket in that district, and I was assistant elector on the Bell Everett ticket. It was in this campaign we first collided. The most impassioned and persuasive plea I heard for the preservation of the American union, when the very air was pregnant with the coming storm of civil strife, was made by Mr. Vest in his speech delivered at Warrensburg. He was elected to the legislature that summer. At the very opening of that memorable legislature he burst upon the public view, a very Prince Rupert, with flaming tongue, arousing a sentiment of resistance to what he conceived to be the encroachments of the federal government upon the rights of the state, imperiling the institutions of slavery. He became the foremost debater of that body, and his fame as a brilliant orator spread beyond the borders of the state.

On this issue we separated. He went South at the outbreak of the war, while I went into the union army. At the close of the war we came together as partners in the practice of law at Sedalia, Mo., which relation continued until he entered the senate of the United States in March, 1879, at which time I was a member of the lower house of congress. His career as senator is public history. No word of mine can tarnish its luster. I speak rather of his personal traits and mental qualities.

His temperament was sanguine; his heart was tender and generous. His mind was "a perfect field of cloth of gold," filled with all beautiful imagery, and garnished with the richest treasures of literature and history. He read every book accessible pertaining to the science of government and political economy. He garnered the most rare and valuable treasures of the classics, of Celtic and Anglo-Saxon literature and philosophy. He was conversant with the writings of all the leading publicists and authors on international law. He was as familiar with the debates of the convention that framed the federal constitution and the essays in the Federalist as he was with current politics. He was conversant with all the leading decisions of the supreme court expounding the fundamental principles of the constitution. He was familiar with the biographies of English and American statesmen. He had read and mastered all of the best in fiction and poetry. Beyond the old masters he cared not to go.

To say that he had read all these is to assert that he had retained, digested and assimilated whatever was of worth in them. His memory was marvelous. It was not a faculty assiduously cultivated, at the expense of invention and originality. It was a soil, prodigal of nature, which never

failed of rich fruitage. It required no severe labor for him, on occasion, to extract from this vast storehouse whatever was needed for application and use. It lay imbedded in no confused mass, but in perfect order, at his ready command, like the weapons of the thoroughly equipped warrior. I doubt if the age in which he lived has presented a readier or more effective debater at the bar, on the hustings or in the forum. In emergency the fires of his genius seemed to light up all the channels of his mind and heart, so that he could lay his hand upon every weapon stored in the armory of his memory for either offense or defense. And he used them as the master of the fence, or as Isocrates the vexing foil.

This quality of his mind was strikingly manifested in the remarkable series of articles recently contributed by him to the Philadelphia Evening Post. Blind, beyond the capacity to read, his emaciated body unable to support him even in a chair, his physical forces gone, he lay in his bed unaided by an amanuensis, or recourse to memoranda, and thought out his subject. When his mind became aglow with the matter, he asked for a stenographer, the son of an old, cherished friend in his early life, and in a voice so feeble that the stenographer had to sit close to the bed, he dictated with exactness as to dates, historical facts and apposite quotations. When this was done scarcely a word or phrase needed correction or revision.

It was thus in court and in the senate in respect to his memory and accuracy. He made few notes of the testimony in the progress of the trial, and seldom had recourse to memoranda in parliamentary debate. The construction and diction were so perfect, his words so suited to the thought, it was indeed seldom that his part in a day's running debate in the senate needed revision. They are models of good English.

He never studied an English grammar, only the Latin grammar at school. Yet what public speaker violated less the rules of syntax, etymology and rhetoric than he?

It is a common mistake that in the practice of law he was not an industrious student, relying more upon the faculty of assimilation or intuition than investigation and induction. While his quick perception availed him more than any lawyer I ever knew, he never failed, on important questions and occasions, to make preparation and work out the law of the case for himself. He knew where to look for the authority, and he knew when he had found it. Genius, in his case, was not only the faculty of appreciation, but, in a pre-eminent degree, of discrimination. Had he not been possessed with the greater passion for a political career, he would have stood in the forefront of American lawyers. He was the most irresistible advocate before a jury I ever heard; while his power of close analysis, clear logic and charming eloquence made him equally formidable before the bench.

His style was ornate, but without floridity. He eschewed all extravagance, hyperbole and empty, rounded periods. He had no model as a speaker. Elegance of diction, aptness of language, the breathing thought and burning word were his forte.

In wit he was the equal of Sheridan; in repartee as dangerous as Curran; and in pungent, biting invective he had few superiors. Like his character, his speech was direct. There was no circumvention in his character, or repetition or monotony in his speeches. He quit when he was done, and no plaudits of his audience could tempt him to go further. There was no studied art or affectation or mannerism. He was absolutely natural. And there was, in the days of his prime, an indefinable charm in his voice that mesmerized his listeners.

He was an intense partisan. Doubt-

less in his political career he experimented with doubtful expedients for the sake of party success; but neither crowns nor offices could tempt him to a policy which his judgment and convictions deeply impressed him was false in conception and dangerous to the country. On more than one occasion during his senatorial career he challenged and refused to follow legislative instructions because his obligation to his oath of office, as he interpreted it, would not allow him to obey it. And he made no mock heroic display by proffering a surrender of his commission. Of the same quality of independent spirit was almost the last utterance made by him before his retirement from the senate, in which he entered a solemn protest against the unreasonable clamor of the day for popular election of United States senators. He had respect for the ancient landmarks of security established by the fathers of the republic. He took heed rather to the enduring frame of the constitution than the flighty pulse of an intoxicated public sentiment.

The social side of Mr. Vest's character was most charming. His friendships knew no caste or party lines. Among his most devoted friends and ardent admirers were his political opponents. All men who were close enough to feel the magnetic influence of his genius and geniality paid him generous homage. He was at home with the prince and the beggar. He was the hail fellow of any social circle he entered, the champagne of any intellectual feast where he was a guest. He was the most entertaining conversationalist to whom it was my fortune so long to listen. What pearls and gems of thought and sentiment daily dropped from his lips.

Many there was vital, at times, in his tongue, his heart was kindly and tender to the bottom. Often, after, under the excitement of debate or the burrah of the hustings, he had almost unmercifully flayed some adversary I have heard him express deep regret, and he would embrace any opportunity to indicate it. Age softened the asperities of his temper, and mellowed his affections.

His domestic life was singularly felicitous. No matter where or how he wandered, or however tempest tossed his bark in the voyage, his heart ever turned unflinchingly to the magnet of his wife's love. Beautiful, indeed, was their devotion and unity for over half a century. To her he was a knight without reproach, a hero without a fault. To him she was the peerless princess who lost nothing of her charms and graces by the wear of time. There is nothing in domestic history, romance or fiction more touching and blessed than the ceaseless vigils and untiring ministrations of his frail, loving wife, and the devotion of his daughter, as month after month, day by day and night by night they watched over his wasted body, and fought off the grim monster.

Among his constituents there were none who were so constantly the object of his solicitude and best efforts as the farmers. He loved their simple habits and enjoyed their unaffected friendships. It was his wish, as it occurred, that in the cottage he planned and built at Sweet Springs, in the richest agricultural county in the state, where the luxuriant grass waved on the common in sight of his window, and the thickly set forest trees cast their grateful shade over his roof, he should breathe his last.

The state he loved so much and served so long and well will never see his like again.

## Miss Worthington Entertains.

Miss Lillian Worthington entertained Tuesday evening in honor of her guest, Miss Bernice Cromwell, of Kansas City, and Misses Zannie May Estes, of Columbia, and May Wonselar and Ola Delaney, of Cowgill, who have been the guests of the Misses Chinn. About thirty young ladies and gentlemen were present, the time being pleasantly passed in playing pit. No favors were awarded. Light refreshments consisting of cakes and ices were served.

Mrs. J. J. Nesbitt and children, of Larned, Kas., arrived Tuesday night for a visit with Mrs. Gustav Haerle.

## Council Proceedings.

City council met in regular session Monday night, all members being present. Minutes of the preceding regular and adjourned meetings were read and approved. Reports from the various city officers for month of July were read, received and ordered filed.

Councilman Mayer presented the various claims for July, which were allowed. The special paving bill of Contractor Menefee for paving done west of Eighth street and at Public school was ordered paid by the city.

The bill of the Electric Light Company for month of July, \$284.75, was ordered to be paid in full.

The supply committee was instructed to buy six wire street brushes for cleaning the streets, and the calaboose keeper was instructed to have the paved streets swept by prisoners.

The Seventeenth street sidewalk ordinance was passed and approved. This provides for sidewalks on both sides of the street from the north line of Franklin avenue north to city limits. Sidewalks to be third class and to consist of 8 inches of cinders well tamped and 4 inches of rock screenings. Property owners, however, have the right to put down first or second class walks wherever they see fit.

Mr. Will Campbell was notified to put down a brick walk in front of his residence on Main street.

It was moved and carried that the mayor notify the fire company not to drive the fire team out of a trot on any of the principal streets, except in case of fire.

Council adjourned to meet in adjourned session Tuesday, August 23.

## "Lexington Day" at the Fair.

Mayor Winkler has received a letter from President Francis informing him that one day of "Missouri week," namely, Friday, August 26, has been designated "Lexington Day." Continuing the letter says:

"If this date will be convenient to you a suitable hall will be placed at your disposal wherein may be held such ceremonies as you may decide upon. Will you kindly lay the matter before your officials and other representative citizens for consideration and advise me at your earliest convenience of the action taken."

"Our plans contemplate special arrangements with the railway lines of Missouri for exceptionally low rates during the entire week. Upon receipt of your acceptance of the day assigned a representative of the World's Fair management will call upon you and assist you in every way possible to make "Lexington Day" a great success. Very Respectfully,

D. R. FRANCIS,  
President."

## Office Discontinued.

G. W. Bailey, agent for the Santa Fe Railway Company at this place, has received orders to discontinue the office at Lexington as soon as the business can be closed up—not later than August 15. Mr. Bailey has been an exceedingly active and accommodating representative of this road, but the office here has not been profitable to the company. The closing of this office will mean that free freight delivery will cease at once. This was a favor which probably no other town in Missouri enjoyed and was estimated to be worth to our merchants from \$8,000 to \$12,000 per year. Doubtless the Fargo Express office will go too.

Now is the time to work for the bridge.

## Died at Napoleon.

Died Monday morning at her home near Napoleon, Mrs. Susan Hoff, aged 80 years. Mrs. Hoff was born in Floyd county, Va., and has been a resident of Missouri for thirty years. The body was taken to Sweet Springs for burial.

Mrs. Hoff is the mother of Mr. Samuel Hoff of Napoleon, who is well known here.

Mr. and Mrs. Gus Weber, Mrs. D. M. Frazier, Mrs. C. C. Barnard and children, Miss Maggie Spears, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Barnett, Clarence Stewart, Misses Minnie and Lizzie Luehrman and Miss Annie Doelling left for St. Louis Thursday morning to attend the fair.